

royal over theory He did not, on the Council,
talk about
Municipalisation or Municipal Socialism, but,
during his
active period as a member of it, he got the
foundations
so truly laid that there was no removing them
Adoptive
Acts, instead of lying in the pigeon holes,
were brought
out and put into operation with regard to
Health and
Housing, the regulation of Docks and Markets,
the pro-
vision of Parks and Open Spaces Thiohgh
inspection,
regulation, and control, the standard of
decency and
comfort of the Londoner was lifted The supply
of water
was brought under public control, as a first
step to its
complete transference to public supply The
regulation
of gas, the control of electricity, the provision of
libraries,
parks, trams, slaughter-houses, wash-houses
and playing
fields, the control over docks, the clearance of
slums and
erection of houses—these things came bit by
bit, as part
of an efficiency programme, and of a campaign
for public
health and sanitation carried through
patiently, and
without unnecessary advertisement of the
controlling
purpose behind the different parts of the work,
each good,
even irresistibly and obviously necessary in
itself Sidney
Webb, as in his Fabian days, was the brains
and the
driving force behind the whole steady
transformation of
London into the place as which we know it
It was not got through, this
collectivisation, without
fighting and finesse All his tact,
resourcefulness and
persistence were required and were given

to the task
It was accomplished at a period when, for
the most part.
Conservative Ministries were in office
They grumbled
So did the Conservative representatives on
the Council,
and the wealthy ratepayers of the City and
West End
Yet they dared not attack the policy root
and branch
Social Reform was in the air was not Sir
William Harcourt
even saying "we are all Socialists now"? All
they could,
and did say was that the Council was
"overdoing it"